



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending March 21, 2010

Cool Temperatures; Field Work Progressing Where Conditions Allow

Weather Summary: High temperatures last week ranged from the upper 60s to the low 80s. Night time low temperatures were mostly in the 30s and 40s, with some 50s. In major cities, temperatures averaged 5 to 8 degrees below normal. Rain was recorded at all Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations, with the largest amounts in the central and southern regions. Sarasota, Polk, and DeSoto counties collected 1.25 inches or more. Most locations in the Panhandle and Big Bend received less than half an inch last week. Soil moisture levels were mostly adequate to surplus.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	5	40	1	1	39	0
Short	1	42	5	8	37	9
Adequate	72	17	71	67	22	62
Surplus	22	1	23	24	1	29

Field Crops: Some areas remained wet, but longer days and reduced rainfall aided field work. Growers continued to prepare fields where possible. In south Florida, potato harvest continued. Potato fields in the Hastings area were behind schedule due to cold conditions. Some fields had to be replanted and growth was slow. Boniatos were harvested in Miami-Dade County. Sugarcane harvest remained active. Hay supplies were low, but moderate weather helped forage growth.

Vegetables: Cabbage production in the Hastings area progressed slowly due to cool temperatures. Vegetable planting continued throughout the State. Growers in Highlands County planted cucumbers, watermelon, and snap beans. Some fields in the southern Peninsula needed more moisture, while others received heavy showers which increased disease. Below average temperatures delayed some vegetable crops. Snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, strawberries, and tomatoes moved through the market last week.

Greenhouse and Nursery: Some palms in the central Peninsula were reported as damaged from previous freezing temperatures. Heating greenhouses became more costly due to below normal temperatures. A few growers reported that orchids were negatively impacted.

Livestock and Pastures: Pasture and range throughout the State was mostly in poor to good condition with recent heavy rain and unseasonably cold weather limiting grass growth. Hay feeding was active. In the Panhandle, the pasture condition was very poor to excellent. In the northern areas, pasture was in very poor to good condition with most poor. Winter forage was not growing because of unseasonably cold and wet growing conditions. Considerable pasture was overgrazed with some pastures reduced to mud. Most permanent pasture was still dormant, but some warm season perennial grasses showed signs of green up. Small grains and ryegrass grew some where the temperature reached 60 degrees. Hay feeding continues with some cattlemen having nearly exhausted hay reserves. The cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most poor to good. In the central areas, pasture was very poor to good. Forage growth in some locations was limited by drought. Some pasture began to show initial spring growth. Hay feeding was active, with the quality of some low. Most cattle in the area were in fair to good condition. In the southwestern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in poor to fair condition due to cold weather. Some permanent pasture was beginning to green up. The cattle were in poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. Livestock producers were feeding hay and supplements. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was very poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	5	5	20	20
Poor	10	20	35	45
Fair.....	50	40	40	25
Good	30	30	5	9
Excellent	5	5	0	1

Citrus: Highs this week were in the upper 70s to lower 80s, with early morning lows in the 40s. Lake Alfred again received the most rainfall for the week at 1.41 inches, and Clewiston received only a trace, 0.03 inches. Most packinghouses remained open. Varieties packed included midseason oranges, Temples, Valencia, white and colored grapefruit, and Honey tangerines. Fifteen processors were open and accepting fruit. Valencia oranges and grapefruit comprised the majority of fruit going to the plants. Grove activity last week included mowing, Temik application, psyllid treatment, hedging and topping, brush removal, fertilizer application, and ditch cleaning.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	March 7, 2010	March 14, 2010	March 21, 2010
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	242	43	45
Temples	23	48	64
Valencia	616	1,553	2,374
Navel oranges	0	0	3
Grapefruit.....	1,248	1,193	1,059
Honey tangerines	91	149	124

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. To set-up this free subscription, select Florida Crop-Weather; enter your name and your email address, click on Subscribe. This report will be sent automatically each week; or call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Data for individual reporting stations is available at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.